to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Task Force Report has suggested a Strategy and Action Programme which *inter-alia* includes conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The action Programme includes specific activities for conservation, cultivation, documentation, inventorisation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, involving a number of Ministries and Departments in Government of India.

(c) Measures for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants include:

(i) *In-situ* regeneration of plants by National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board (NAEB) under the Non Timber Forest Produce (NTEP) scheme including medicinal plants. Regeneration of medicinal plants in degraded forest areas under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forest.

(ii) A Central Scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants is funded by the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy for setting up of medicinal plant gardens.

Cleaning of Ganga

665. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Ganga more polluted than Norway's sewers", appearing in the Statesman dated 20th June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to clean the river completely in accordance with Ganga Action Plan initiated by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item indicates that a

sample which was collected by the Oslo University researcher from river Ganga just downstream of the common effluent treatment plant shows a chemical oxygen demand level of 800 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 10.9 milligram per litre. These values have however been compared with the standards for effluent quality from common effluent treatment plants and not with those of the river water. The Central Pollution Control Board, Kanpur has carried out the monitoring of the Jajmau common effluenty treatment plant during the months of April & June, 2000 and has found chemical oxygen demand concentration of 341 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 0.15 milligram per litre as against the effluent quality standards of chemical oxygen demand of 250 miligram per litre and total chromium of 2 miligram per litre. The monitoring report of the Central Pollution Control Board indicates that the chromium concentration in the effluent is within the discharge standards but the chemical oxygen demand values are violating. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to take corrective steps to ensure the compliance of effluent standards.

(c) Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which has since been completed, about 35 per cent pollution of Ganga has been tackled. The remaining 65 per cent pollution is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase II which is under implementation.

Survey of Forest Wealth

666. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State-wise survey on the forest Wealth has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between deforestation and afforestation in these States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to undertake any long term programme to bridge the gap between deforestation and afforestation; and